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CONFIDENTIAL

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Mr. Chester Bowles

Dear Chet:

This is further to my letter of 13 February in which I told you that I had passed on to Bill Lacy a copy of your letter concerning the Yale Russian Chorus.

I have now had a reply from Bill Lacy, and while he is having the Director of his East-West Contacts Staff write directly to the Chorus, I thought you would be interested in seeing the enclosed copy of Bill's letter to me.

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With best wishes.

Faithfully,

Signed

Allen W. Dulles
Director

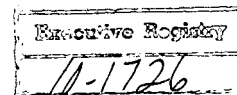
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SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

March 5, 1958

Dear Allen:

Thank you for your note of February 13, 1958, enclosing a letter from Chester Bowles, dated February 4, 1958, concerning the desire of the Yale Russian Chorus to tour the Soviet Union this summer.

I have had my staff investigate the possibilities of such a tour being arranged through private channels, since the amount of government funds available for such cultural activities is extremely limited and what little is available for the coming summer is already practically all committed. For the information of Mr. Bowles and the Chorus, however, the way in which government support is handled is as follows:

The President's Special International Program for Cultural Presentations does, under certain circumstances, provide financial assistance to American performing artists for foreign tours. It is usual that such assistance does not completely underwrite all tour costs but supplements private financial support and revenues from commercial appearances abroad. Nominees for assistance are screened for artistic quality by a panel of independent experts and the Department acts only on the positive recommendations of the panel. In making final selections the Department then considers such questions as cost, time of availability, Foreign Service post reaction, general appropriateness to program objectives and a number of other pertinent factors.

The American National Theatre and Academy (ANTA), 1545 Broadway, New York, has been appointed the Department's agent to handle certain aspects of this program. Groups interested in participating in the program should correspond directly with that organization.

The only

The Honorable
Allen W. Dulles, Director,
Central Intelligence Agency.

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The only promising possibility remaining for this summer would seem to be financial assistance from some foundation, such as the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations which you mentioned in your letter.

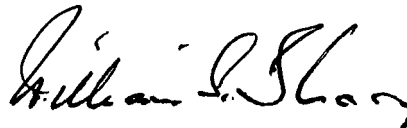
There is also the rather slight possibility that the group could arrange with the Soviet authorities for a tour on a commercial basis. Contact could be made with the Soviet Embassy at Washington to initiate negotiations. It is our experience, however, that the Soviet Government normally insists on reciprocity in the cases of performing artists.

The Chorus could, of course, go to the Soviet Union as tourists and try to arrange some concerts after its arrival. I am not at all sure, however, that this approach would be productive.

I am sorry not to be able to give you more concrete suggestions. As you know, the exchange program is still largely in the developmental stage. We shall keep the Yale group in mind in case an opportunity opens up in which their unusual talents can be employed. Mr. Frederick T. Merrill, Director of the East-West Contacts Staff, is writing directly to the Chorus giving the gist of the information contained in the present letter.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William S. B. Lacy".

William S. B. Lacy